

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Akihiro Toshima et al.

Application No.: 10/599,432

Confirmation No.: 8748

Filed: September 28, 2006

Art Unit: N/A

For: STEERING APPARATUS AND
MANUFACTURING METHOD OF SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, 1.98, and it is requested that the information set forth in this statement and in the listed documents be considered during the pendency of the above-identified application, and any other application relying on the filing date of the above-identified application or cross-referencing it as a related application.

1. This IDS should be considered, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97, as it is filed:
(Check one of the boxes A-D)

- A. within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application or within three months of the entry into the national stage of the above identified national application
- B. before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, or a first office action after filing a request for continued examination.
- C. after (A) and (B) above, but before final rejection or allowance, and Applicants have made the necessary statement in box "i" below or paid the necessary fee in box "ii" below.

CONSIDERED: /T.D./

(check one of the boxes "i" and "ii" below:)

- i. Counsel states that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was (check one of boxes (a) or (b))
 - (a) first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
 - (b) not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.
- ii. A check for the fee set forth in 1.17(p), presently believed to be \$180, is enclosed.

D. after (A), (B) and (C) above, but before payment of the issue fee: Applicant petitions under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(d) for the consideration of this IDS. Under 37 CFR 1.17(p) a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed. Counsel certifies that, upon information and belief, each item of information listed herein was

(check one of the boxes "a" and "b" below:)

- (a) first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or
- (b) was not cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was not known to any individual designated in 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

2. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, this IDS includes a list (e.g., form PTO/SB/08) of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the office, either incorporated into this IDS or as an attachment hereto. A copy of each document listed is attached, except as explained below.

(check boxes A, B and/or C and fill in blanks, if appropriate.)

CONSIDERED: /T.D./

- A. Pursuant to the Notice issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office dated July 11, 2003 waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i), a copy/copies of the United States Patent on PTO/SB08 is/are not being submitted.
- B. Document(s) _____ is (are) deemed substantially cumulative to document(s) _____, and, in accordance with 1.98(c), only a copy of each of the latter documents is enclosed.
- C. Certain documents were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the following prior applications, which are relied upon under 35 U.S.C. 120:

<<INSERT SERIAL NO. & FILING DATE>>

Applicant identifies these documents by attaching hereto copies of the forms PTO-892, PTO-1449 and/or PTO/SB/08 from the files of the prior application(s) or a fresh PTO/SB/08 listing these documents, and request that they be considered and made of record in accordance with 1.98(d). Per 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of these documents need not be filed in this application.

- 3. Cite Nos. _____ are not in the English language. In accordance with 1.98(c), Applicant states:
 - An English translation of each document (or of the pertinent portions thereof), or a copy of each corresponding English-language patent or application, or English-language abstract (or claim) is enclosed.
 - The requirement for a concise explanation of the relevance of any foreign language document is satisfied by the attached search report; citation of the documents cited in the search report shall not be construed as an admission that they are or are considered to be, material to patentability of the subject matter claimed herein (See MPEP §609).
 - A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ is set forth as follows: [Insert concise explanation of relevance]
 - A concise explanation of the relevance of document(s) _____ can be found on page(s) _____ of the specification.
 - A concise explanation of document(s) _____ can be found on the attached sheet.

- 4. No explanation of relevance is necessary for documents in the English language (see reply to Comments 67 in the preamble to the final rules; 1135 OG 13 at 20).
- 5. Other information being provided for the examiner's consideration follows:

A European Search Report, dated June 22, 2007, which issued during the prosecution of European Patent Application No. 05727852.5 which corresponds to the present application.

6. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g) and (h), the filing of this IDS should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in §1.56 (b), or that any cited document listed or attached is (or constitutes) prior art. Unless otherwise indicated, the date of publication indicated for an item is taken from the face of the item and Applicant reserves the right to prove that the date of publication is in fact different.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency of up to \$300.00 or credit any excess in this fee to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

Dated: July 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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